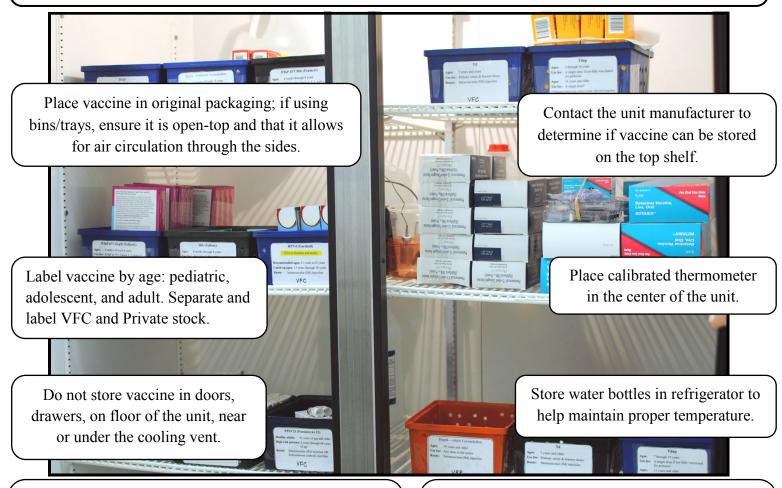
## Storing Vaccines in a Refrigerator Unit



Rotate stock; keep vaccine with shorter expiration dates to the front, and use it first. If VFC vaccine will expire in 6 months or less, notify the local health department. If vaccine is expired, **REMOVE** immediately!

Keep temperatures 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C)



## **Key Points for Vaccine Storage:**

- Stand-alone purpose-built/pharmaceutical grade refrigerator units are recommended.
- If a purpose-built/pharmaceutical grade unit is not available, it is recommended to use a stand-alone household unit.
- If you must use a household-grade combination refrigerator/freezer unit, <u>only</u> use the refrigerator compartment for storing vaccines.
- Dormitory style units can **NEVER** be used to store vaccine under any circumstances!
- Temperatures below 36°F are too cold; temperatures above 46°F are too warm. When temperature is out of range, <a href="mixed-immediately">immediately</a> notify the primary or alternate vaccine coordinator, label the vaccine "Do Not Use," and contact the vaccine manufacturer(s) for guidance. For Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) vaccine, contact the local health department too.
- Place vaccines in the center of the unit, with 2 to 3 inches of space from the wall, ceiling, floor, and door.
- Store only vaccines in a vaccine storage unit, no food or beverages!
- Add water bottles in places where vaccine should not be stored to help maintain temperatures.
- Refrigerate all vaccines <u>except</u> MMRV, Varicella, and Zoster.

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/toolkit/storage-handling-toolkit.pdf Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)-Division of Immunization